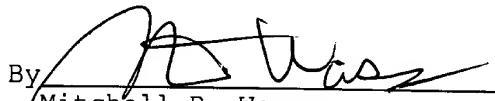


information to be reviewed by the buyer, each vendor would be charged an appropriate fee. As can be appreciated, the more frequently the vendor would supply inventory information to the exchange platform, the larger the fee would be.

Although the buyer would more than likely not be aware of the fact that various vendors are transmitting information at differing rate intervals, the buyer would still have the opportunity to review the information transmitted from the first, second and third group of vendors as recited in independent claim 6. The fact that the buyer might not perceive the fact that various vendors are transmitting information at differing rate intervals would not defeat the teachings as recited in claim 16, since the buyer would be able to review all the information transferred from the various vendors at the differing rate intervals. It is not of crucial importance that the buyer would know that different vendors are transmitting information at differing rate intervals, what is important is that the buyer would review all the information transmitted by the inventors, regardless of the rate intervals.

It is believed that claim 16 as amended, as well as all of the remaining claims in this application do recite the invention in a proper manner. Therefore, allowance of these claims are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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October 14, 2003

Attorney Docket No: A-7057.AMB/cat

16. (Amended) A computerized method for enabling a ~~buyer to review inventory provided by a plurality of vendors to transmit inventory information to an exchange platform at differing rate intervals~~, comprising the steps of:

creating an exchange platform provided at a location removed from ~~the~~ a buyer and the vendors;

transmitting inventory information from a first group of vendors denoted as search time participants at a first interval rate to said exchange platform;

transmitting inventory information from a second group of vendors denoted as order time participants at a second interval rate more frequent than said first interval rate to said exchange platform;

transmitting inventory information from a third group of vendors denoted as real time participants at a third interval rate more frequent than said second interval rate to said exchange platform; and

having the buyer review the inventory information transmitted from said first, second and third group of vendors.

17. (Previously presented) The method in accordance with claim 16, further including the step of having the buyer order an item from the inventory information.

18. (Previously presented) The method in accordance with claim 17, further including the step of providing a viewing screen for each of the vendors, allowing the vendors to review the orders of a buyer.

19. (Previously presented) The method in accordance with claim 18, further including the step of communicating a target price for an inventory item to the vendors.

20. (Previously presented) The method in accordance with claim 16, further including the step of transmitting inventory information to said exchange platform using a batch file.

21. (Previously presented) The method in accordance with claim 17, further including the step of automatically informing a vendor when a buyer places an order.

22. (Previously presented) The method in accordance with claim 21, further including the step of approving the order during a predetermined period of time to prevent the order from being rejected.